

**KENT AND SUSSEX COUNTY COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

February 26, 2020

In Attendance: Katie Kenney, Superintendent
Dawn Garnett, AS III
Kevin Solomon, YRC Supervisor
Martia Proctor, Family Service Coordinator
John Longo Jr., YRC Supervisor
Kevaughn Laviea, Recreation Specialist
Brianna Cooper, AS I
George Pippin, Former Superintendent
Bobbie Stewart, Former Nursing Manager
Sarah Cantoni, Nursing Manager

George Pippin Award

Mr. Pippin presented the 2019 employee of the year, Troy Haynes with the annual George Pippin award.

Food Bank

We are renewing our collaboration with the Food Bank and will have a food pantry on site.

Coronavirus

The CDC is predicting a pandemic; Mr. Pippin recommended that the Division be prepared. We should have protocol in place, including staffing, to handle a youth(s) infected with the virus.

Newspaper Article

Mr. Pippin referenced a negative newspaper article regarding staffing and pay. He stated the article upset him and that some of the language in the article was unfair. He added that he supports a pay increase though he does not believe everything that was written. Mr. Pippin was advised that the article applied to upstate facilities rather than SHDC.

Ms. Kenney stated that it is a priority to obtain more positions for the Division. Prior to the budget hearings, the Dept. was able to establish a sign on bonus for new hires, as well as a bonus for referring employees. SHDC only has 4 to 5 vacancies.

Mr. Pippin asked why positive coverage about SHDC is never in the newspaper, referring to employee of the year, facility awards, etc. Information is sent to the director's office regularly; however, it is not SHDC's decision whether information makes it to the newspapers.

Collaborations

SHDC is renewing its partnership with the Food Bank; a food pantry will be on site. A new program will be implemented, Lions Quest sponsored by the Lions Club.

Youth Rooms

NCCDC purchased new furniture for youth rooms prior to the ACA audit. Desks, beds with cubby underneath and recessed sprinklers were installed. We are hoping to make the same changes at SHDC.

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Training

In-house training is taking place on Wednesdays to ensure that staff receive their required annual training.

Medical Testing upon Admission

Bobbie Stewart stated that medical does testing on youth at the time of admission. Sarah Cantoni is in contact with the medical director.

Spring Fest

Our next scheduled family event is the Spring Fest on April 16, 2020.